

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 035385

51

ORIGIN L-03

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SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 /096 R

DRAFTED BY L/ARA:TABOREK:ARA/PAN:RBHOWARD:ZC

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035385

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, PN, PQ

SUBJECT: CONSULTATION WITH PANAMA ON CHANGES IN US FORCES
IN CANAL ZONE

REFERENCE: PANAMA'S 1007

1. DEPT. READS ARTICLE X OF GENERAL TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP
AND COOPERATION OF MARCH 2, 1936 TO REQUIRE CONSULTATION
BETWEEN USG AND GOP WITH RESPECT TO "MEASURES OF PRE-
VENTION AND DEFENSE" ONLY IN CASES WHERE (A) THERE EXISTS
"AN INTERNATIONAL CONFLAGRATION OR... ANY THREAT OF AGGRES-
SION" ENDANGERING THE SECURITY OF PANAMA OR THE NEUTRALITY
OR SECURITY OF THE CANAL, AND (B) WHERE ANY SUCH MEASURES
TAKEN BY ONE GOVERNMENT AFFECT TERRITORY UNDER JURISDICTION
OF OTHER GOVERNMENT. INASMUCH AS THESE CRITERIA DO NOT
PRESENTLY OBTAIN, WE SEE NO REQUIREMENT TO CONSULT FORMALLY
WITH GOP CONCERNING CHANGES IN US ARMY SOUTH.

2. AS A MATTER OF COURTESY, HOWEVER, THE DEPT. AGREES THAT
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PAGE 02 STATE 035385

IT IS DESIRABLE TO INFORM THE GOP REGARDING ANY SIGNIFICANT

CHANGES IN THE STRUCTURE OF US FORCES IN THE CANAL ZONE. IN THIS REGARD, THE FULL NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE CONTEMPLATED CHANGES ARE NOT YET KNOWN. AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, HOWEVER, DOD WILL PROVIDE BASIC INFORMATION WHICH CAN BE USED TO INFORM APPROPRIATE GOP OFFICIALS. RUSH

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